

Sunday, April 23, 2023

1 Timothy 4:13, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”

Title: The Example of the First on the Way

Series: People of the Way ... 2

Text: John 14:1 to 7; Acts 2:36 - 47

Purpose: I want to INFORM my congregation of some of the initial practices of the first followers of Christ Jesus as given to us in Acts 2:36 - 47.

1. They Devoted Themselves to...the Apostle's Teaching:

~ Acts 2:42, “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

The Holy Bible is a Divinely inspired collection of 66 writings by approximately 40 authors over a period of some 1,500 years with dozens of prophetic words fulfilled to the letter.

~ 2 Timothy 3:16 – 17, “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, (17) that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

Of the 66 writings, 39 are in what is identified as the Old Testament. The remaining 27 writings form the New Testament, with the first 5 being historical books of the life and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The remaining 22 writings contain the apostolic teaching to the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ!

“Why Is Doctrine Important?” Although apostolic doctrine was central to the life of the earliest churches, this has not always been easy to preserve. Indeed, many of the great reforming moments that came later were really moments of recovery. Lost ways of doctrinal thinking and lost biblical doctrines were retrieved and made central once again. The reason for the church’s checkered history in this regard is quite simple: the content of this doctrine, as well as its function in the life of the church, is at the heart of the church’s spiritual warfare.”

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In the devotional messages I try to do either Bible book devotionals (Colossians) or short series of devotions on a particular theme; in each case I endeavor to support with Scripture that individuals can follow-up on.

2. They Devoted Themselves to...the Fellowship:

~ Acts 2:42, “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

~ Mark 6:7, “And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.”

~ Luke 10:1, “After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every place where he himself was about to go.”

~ Amos 3:3, “Do two walk together, unless they have agreed to meet?” KJV, “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” NIV, “Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?”

~ Genesis 5:22, “Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters.”

Noah walked with God, Genesis 6:9; Abraham instructed to walk before God, Genesis 17:1

~ Ephesians 4:1 – 3, “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, (2) with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, (3) eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

~ Hebrews 10:24 – 25, “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, (25) not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

3. They Devoted Themselves to...the Breaking of Bread:

~ Acts 2:42, “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

1 Corinthians 11:17 – 34; read and comment

~ vs. 26, “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”

~ vs. 28 – 29, “Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. (29) For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.”

4. They Devoted Themselves to...the Prayers:

~ Acts 2:42, “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

~ Ephesians 1:15 – 23; read and comment

~ Colossians 1:3 – 14; read and comment

Conclusion:

The greatest need in my life is to be a person who is in agreement with God; it is not for me to change God’s Word, it is for God’s Word to change me! “And he (Abram soon to be called Abraham) believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.” Genesis 15:6, Check Blue Letter Bible When I come into agreement with God there is a divine order that begins to manifest in my life. If there is a situation that I am left to struggle with, then I need to believe and apply

2 Corinthians 12:9, “But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

Sound doctrine is vital!